

Minutes

New Harmony Bicentennial Commission

December 20, 2011

6:00 p.m. McConnell Home

Present:

Co-Chairperson	Ray McConnell
Co-Chairperson	Connie Weinzapfel
Community Member	David Flanders
Community Member	Liz Mumford
Garden Club of New Harmony	Paul Allison (Alt.)
Harmonie Associates	Donna Creek
Historic New Harmony	Christine Crews
New Harmony Business Associates	Lora Arneberg
New Harmony Interpreters Assoc.	Becky Smyth
New Harmony Kiwanis Club	Marcia Lange
New Harmony Town Council	Linda Warrum (Alt.)
The New Harmony Art Galleries	Maggie Rapp
The Ribeyre Gymnasium Restoration Group	Addison Lange
Parks & Recreation/Tree Board	Johnathan Scott
Plan and Historic Preservation Commission	Mickey Grimm
Public Relations	Karen Walker
Robert L. Blaffer Foundation	James Sanders
University of Southern Indiana	Ed Jones
Executive Assistant	Jan Kahle

Organizations without a representative attending:

American Legion Post 370	Steve Brown/Charles Huck
Friends of the Working Men's Institute	Jeanne Maudlin
Masonic Lodge	Tom Straw
New Harmony Artist's Guild	Jenifer Blevins
New Harmony Ministerial Assoc.	Phyllis Westfall
New Harmony School Corporation	Rick Johnson
Posey County Commissioners	Ann Greenfield
Red Geranium Enterprises	Judy Alsop
Tri Kappa of New Harmony	Rita Reynolds
Working Men's Institute	Nathan Maudlin

The New Harmony Bicentennial Commission met on December 20, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Ray & Barb McConnell. Co-chairperson, Connie Weinzapfel, called the meeting to order. The minutes from the September meeting were approved.

First on the agenda was a review of items discussed at the Steering Committee meeting:

1. The contest for the design of a Bicentennial logo came to an end. Twelve entries were received and the Logo subcommittee narrowed the field down to two finalists. The Steering Committee selected Rita Davis' design as the winner. This design incorporates the labyrinths and the Golden Raintree; both recognizable symbols of New Harmony. A couple of changes were suggested. After the changes have been made and approved, the design will be made public.
2. Ten (10) Event/Activity applications were received and reviewed by the Steering Committee:
 - a. The University of Southern Indiana will involve department chairs from four colleges. Each department's project will relate to New Harmony's Bicentennial and their particular discipline. Some examples are:
 - i. The Science Department may create geology and insect exhibits; which will include labeling, brochures and lectures. Another suggestion is to approach Indianapolis to create an Indiana "Rock or Geological" symbol perhaps from a formation discovered by David Dale Owen. Liberal Arts are considering a performance of some Golden Troupe material.
 - ii. The Physical Education will sponsor outdoor activities using space in New Harmony.
 - iii. Other departments will also be involved. Lora Arneberg suggested the Art Department could be involved in a sculpture for the entry of the town.
 - b. The RGRG has decided to have a 5K walk/run. Tentative date is August 2, 2014 beginning at 8:00 a.m. The walk/run would end at the Ribeyre Gym.
 - c. The Red Geranium will assist with whatever is needed.
 - d. Tri Kappa will coordinate a parade that could possibly be the kick-off of the Capstone Week. They will handle all logistics of this event.
 - e. Historic New Harmony has secured the services of ESI Design to create a new exhibit at the Atheneum/Visitors Center.
 - f. Friends of the WMI will have oral videography of New Harmony and Posey County citizens and preserve old oral histories. These will then be on display at the WMI during 2014.
 - g. Garden Club of New Harmony will coordinate golf cart garden tours of New Harmony. These tours will be scheduled when and where they will best fit into the schedule.
 - h. New Harmony Parks and Recreation/Tree Board will plant 200 trees and select and plant a tree dedicated to New Harmony's Bicentennial. The Bicentennial tree will be planted during the Capstone Week.
 - i. The Kiwanis will create wooden coins with the Bicentennial logo on the front and a historic image on the back. These coins will be available six months prior to the Capstone Week.

- j. The Working Men's Institute will commission a painting of the WMI and make prints available. The unveiling will be during the Capstone Week.

Other organizations' representatives that have not yet submitted their application for review revealed their proposals.

Jim Sanders reported that the Blaffer Foundation has approved approaching Phil Hageman about creating music specifically for the Bicentennial. It is hoped that the Evansville Philharmonic will perform this composition possibly as part of the "Under the Beams" series.

Lora Arneberg reported that the New Harmony Business Association will have a "Bicentennial slant" to each of their events. The "slant" will be decided by the chairs of the events and the vendors participating.

Mickey Grimm reported on the Planning/Preservation Committee had discussed various options including a Bicentennial House and a permanent carousel. He has researched a similar carousel in Tennessee and will discuss the Bicentennial House with Connie Weinzapfel.

The art galleries of New Harmony will make a decision after the first of the year. The director of the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, Erika Myers-Bromwell, is leaving her position in January. After a new director is named, discussion will be held regarding the Bicentennial.

Donna Creek reported that Harmony Associates would contribute to the celebration with a monetary donation.

Next on the agenda was fundraising.

Jim Sanders reported on fundraising. Before a firm fundraising plan can be created, the Steering Committee will work on a preliminary budget the first Tuesday in March, 2012 (3/6/12) at 4:00 p.m. at the SRE House. Included in the budget should be number of activities, staff support, mailing/printing/etc., awards (i.e. parade), rental (i.e., tent); promotion letters/articles (area magazines and newspapers); level of giving (perhaps five levels) for business and individual. All donations would be tax deductible to the Town of New Harmony. Jim suggested that organizations/corporations/individuals could make a three year pledge. Discussion was held regarding contacting various organizations and corporations for donations and/or sponsorship. Minimum donation of \$20,000 would receive a recognition plaque. It was also discussed having the Steering Committee sponsor a "thank you" event for all donors.

Lora Arneberg suggested that, in lieu of the closing of New Harmony School in the spring of 2012, the resources of the NHS Foundation could be directed to the Bicentennial. Lora will talk to Andrew Wilson, president of the NHS Foundation.

Publicity was next on the agenda:

Karen Walker distributed information regarding a publicity plan. Advance work would include building a database of news editors, photo editors, reporters, etc. with information about their audiences, deadlines, publishing dates and contacts. Objectives and goals need to be determined as well as target audiences. Three key messages involved in the publicity will be determined at the next Steering Committee meeting in March. Spokespersons for the Bicentennial information will be Karen Walker and Ray McConnell or Connie Weinzapfel. All information going to the media will be approved by Karen Walker and Ray McConnell or Connie Weinzapfel.

Other business:

Two new organizations have been added to the Bicentennial Commission; The New Harmony Interpreters Association (NHIA) and Harmonie State Park. Becky Smyth will be the representative for the NHIA. A representative from Harmonie State Park has not yet been named.

Liz Mumford reported the “Under the Beams” organization will have a new print of the Rapp-Owen Granary painted in honor of the Bicentennial.

The next Bicentennial Commission Meeting will be Tuesday, March 20, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. at Thralls Opera House.